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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/973,349 | 10/09/2001 | Douglas Charles Pratt | 2001P07594 US01 | 5262 |

| 7590 10/01/2004 | EXAMINER |
|---|---|
| Elsa Keller, Legal Assistant | HAMILTON, MONPLAISIR G |

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|---|---|
| 2135 | |

DATE MAILED: 10/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|---|---|---|
| **Office Action Summary** | 09/973,349 | PRATT, DOUGLAS CHARLES |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Monplaisir G Hamilton | 2135 |

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

> A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
> THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
>   after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
> - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
> - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
> - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
>   Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
>   earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>01 July 2004</u>.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.          2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
   closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-20</u> is/are pending in the application.
   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) <u>1-20</u> is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
    1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
    3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
       application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

1.      A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in

37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is

eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e)

has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to

37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/01/04 has been entered.


The communication filed on 7/1/04 amended Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 11-19. Claims 1-20

remain for examination.


### *Specification*

2.      The disclosure is objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other

form of browser-executable code. Applicant is required to delete the embedded hyperlink and/or

other form of browser-executable code. See MPEP § 608.01.


### *Response to Arguments*

3.      Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in

view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

## *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4.      Claims 1-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by 20020059204 (Harris).

Referring to Claim 1:

Harris discloses a method for determining identifier codes for an object associated with a plurality of identifier codes by a corresponding plurality of entities, comprising the steps of:

receiving a first message including at least a first identifier code identifying an object, said first identifier code being associated with a first entity (paragraph 0009);

extracting said first identifier code from said received first message (paragraph 0009);

generating a plurality of messages incorporating said extracted first identifier code, said plurality of messages being for initiating a search of a plurality of different remote identifier code databases linking said first identifier code associated with said first entity to corresponding different identifier codes identifying said object, said different identifier code being associated with entities different to said first entity (paragraph 0018, 0029, 0044 and 0065); and

receiving said different identifier codes corresponding to said first identifier code in response to communicating said plurality of messages for initiating a search of said plurality of different remote identifier code databases (paragraph 0017 and 0051-0052).

Referring to Claim 15:

Harris discloses a method for determining a specific identifier code for an object associated with a plurality of identifier codes by a corresponding plurality of entities, comprising the steps of:

receiving a first message including at least a first identifier code identifying an object, said first identifier code being associated with a first entity (paragraph 0009);;

extracting said first identifier code from said received first message (paragraph 0009);;

generating a second message incorporating said extracted first identifier code, said second message being for initiating a search of a remote identifier code database mapping said first identifier code associated with said first entity to a corresponding second identifier code identifying said object and said second message incorporates data representing rules determining conduct of said search of said identifier code database, said second identifier code being associated with a second entity different to said first entity (paragraph 0018, 0029, 0057 and 0058);

receiving said second identifier code corresponding to said first identifier code in response to communicating said second message for initiating a search of said remote identifier code database (paragraph 0017 and 0051-0052).

Referring to Claim 16:

Harris discloses a method for determining identifier codes for an object associated with a plurality of identifier codes by a corresponding plurality of entities, comprising the steps of:

receiving a first message including at least a first identifier code identifying an object, said first identifier code being associated with a first entity (paragraph 0009);

extracting said first identifier code from said received first message (paragraph 0009);

generating a plurality of messages incorporating said extracted first identifier code, said plurality of messages being for initiating a search of a plurality of different remote identifier code databases linking said first identifier code associated with said first entity to corresponding different identifier codes identifying said object, said different identifier code being associated with entities different to said first entity (paragraph 0018, 0029, 0044 and 0065); and

updating said plurality of remote identifier code databases to incorporate corresponding received identifier codes identifying said object (paragraph 0017 and 0051-0056).

Referring to Claim 17:

Harris discloses method for providing identifier codes for an object associated with a plurality of identifier codes by a corresponding plurality of entities, comprising the steps of:

receiving from a remote source a first message including at least a first identifier code identifying an object, said first identifier code being associated with a first entity and said first message requesting determination of a specific identifier code for said object (paragraph 0009);

extracting said first identifier code from said received first message (paragraph 0009);

initiating a search of a plurality of different remote identifier code databases linking said

first identifier code associated with said first entity to corresponding different identifier codes

identifying said object, said different identifier codes being associated with entities different to

said first entity using said extracted first identifier code (paragraph 0018, 0029, 0044 and 0065);

receiving said different identifier codes corresponding to said first identifier code in

response to said initiated search of said plurality of different remote identifier code databases

(paragraph 0051-0056); and

providing said different identifier codes to said remote source (paragraph 0051-0056)).


Referring to Claim 19:

Harris discloses a system for identifier codes for an object associated with a plurality of

identifier codes, comprising:

a communication processor for bidirectionally communicating with remote applications

(Fig. 2; paragraph 0061);

a plurality of different remote identifier code databases (paragraph 0041);

a first application for,

initiating a search of said plurality of different remote databases

to translate a first identifier code identifying an object associated with a first entity to

corresponding different identifier codes identifying said object, said different identifier codes

being associated with entities different to said first entity, in response to receiving a message

including a plurality of corresponding identifier codes identifying said object and provided by

remote applications (paragraph 0018, 0029, 0044 and 0065), and for

updating said plurality of different remote databases to incorporate corresponding

different identifier codes identifying said object (paragraph 0017 and 0051-0056); and

providing said different identifier codes corresponding to said first identifier code in

response to said initiated search of said plurality of different remote identifier code databases via

said communication processor (paragraph 0055-057).

Referring to Claim 2:

Harris discloses the limitation of Claim 1 above. Harris further discloses, wherein

updating said plurality of databases to incorporate said different identifier codes identifying said

object (paragraph 0017).

Referring to Claim 3:

Harris discloses the limitation of Claim 2 above. Harris further discloses, wherein

said plurality of messages use Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) for updating said plurality

of databases (paragraph 0062).

Referring to Claim 4:

Harris discloses the limitation of Claim 1 above. Harris further discloses, including the

step of communicating said plurality of messages to applications useable for initiating a search of

said plurality of different remote identifier code databases (paragraph 0055-0057)

Referring to Claims 5 and 20:

Harris discloses the limitations of Claims 1 and 19 above. Harris further discloses,

wherein a message of said plurality of messages initiates a prioritized search of said a database

and

an object comprises at least one of, (i) an article of manufacture, (ii) a

service and (iii) a non-manufactured item (paragraph 0029) and

an entity comprises at least one of, (a) an object retailer, (b) an object

wholesaler, (c) an object distributor, (d) an object manufacturer, (e) an object

servicing enterprise and (f) an object seller (paragraph 0013).

Referring to Claim 6:

Harris discloses the limitations of Claim 5 above. Harris further discloses, wherein

said prioritized search of said database searches first for a purchaser product identifier code

identifying said object and subsequently for a manufacturer product identifier code identifying

said object (paragraph 0029, 0058 and 0074-0075).

Referring to Claim 7:

Harris discloses the limitations of Claim 1 above. Harris further discloses, wherein said

extracting step comprises

extracting said first identifier code and a corresponding third identifier code identifying

said object from said received first message (paragraph 0052-0053), and

said generating step generates a plurality of messages incorporating said extracted first

and third identifier codes. (paragraph 0029, 0052, 0058 and 0074-0075)


Referring to Claim 8:

Harris discloses the limitations of Claim 7 above. Harris further discloses, wherein

said first identifier code comprises a purchaser product identifier code and said third identifier

code comprises a manufacturer product identifier code and a massage of said plurality of

messages initiates a prioritized search of a database involving searching first for said purchaser

product identifier code and subsequently for a manufacturer product identifier code (paragraph

0029, 0058 and 0074-0075)..


Referring to Claim 9:

Harris discloses the limitations of Claim 1 above. Harris further discloses, wherein

said message of said plurality of massages incorporates rules determining conduct of said search

of said identifier code database (paragraph 0055-057).


Referring to Claim 10:

Harris discloses the limitations of Claim 9 above. Harris further discloses, wherein

said rules are predetermined in an application used for accessing said database (paragraph 0055-

057).

Referring to Claim 11:

Harris discloses the limitations of Claim 1 above. Harris further discloses, including the

step of

communicating said plurality of messages to applications for accessing said databases

using at least two of, (a) Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP), (b) Simple Object Access Protocol

(SOAP) and (c) XML (Extensible Markup language (paragraph 0062).


Referring to Claim 12:

Harris discloses the limitations of Claim 1 above. Harris further discloses, wherein

said method comprises an identifier code mapping application and said identifier code mapping

application and one of said plurality of different remote identifier code databases are co-located

on the same processor, said processor comprising one of (a) a server, (b) a PC (c) a wireless

device, (d) a mainframe computer and (e) another networked processing device (paragraph 0065-

0066, 0075).


Referring to Claim 13:

Harris discloses the limitations of Claim 1 above. Harris further discloses, wherein

at least one of said first and said different identifier codes comprise one of (a) a Universal

Product Code and (b) a code associated with a bar code (paragraph 0013 and 0029).

Referring to Claim 14:

Harris discloses the limitations of Claim 1 above. Harris further discloses, wherein said first message is received from an application initiating a transaction and including the step of (paragraph 0013),

forwarding a composite message to a destination application in support of said transaction, said composite message being created including information derived from said first message and including one of said different identifier codes (paragraph 0076).

Referring to Claim 18:

Harris discloses the limitations of Claim 17 above. Harris further discloses, including the step of generating a record of said search and provision of said different identifier codes for use in at least one of, (a) billing, and (b) creating a transaction record (paragraph 0055, 0076).

## *Prior Art*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 5724575 issued to Hoover, Michael K. et al. Hoover discloses an object-based relational distributed database system and associated methods of operation that transforms data stored in a plurality of remote, heterogeneous user databases into a homogeneous data model is disclosed. Data stored in distributed, heterogeneous user database structures is homogenized by mapping into object attributes of predetermined instances of objects forming to a conceptual model that relates the various heterogeneous databases. The object attributes are stored in

remote databases at client sites, which can be separate computer systems from the

heterogeneous user databases or separate processes running on a computer system that

maintains the heterogeneous user databases. The system stores location information and status

information relating to the homogenized data in a centralized object broker for object

management, thereby facilitating location and retrieval of data items from one or more of the

remote, heterogeneous user databases.


US 6578030 issued to Wilmsen, James Michael et al. Wilmsen discloses a method for

converting a searchable electronic catalog of the type used in e-commerce and industrial

materiel systems. Such catalogs are typically configured as databases but can be created from a

variety of different source materials. The method includes identifying a set of items to be

converted, identifying the characteristics for each item, accessing the characteristic values for

each identified item, accessing mapping rules for each characteristic and each item, mapping the

characteristic values for each item in the first catalog into the characteristic identified by the

rule for the item in the second catalog, and compiling the mapped characteristic values for each

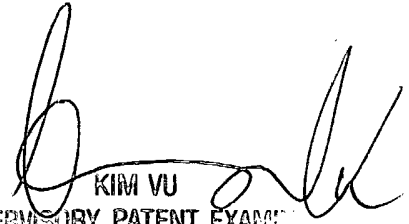item to form the second catalog.

### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Monplaisir G Hamilton whose telephone number is (703) 305-5116. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday (8:00 am - 4:30 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y Vu can be reached on (703) 305-4393. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Monplaisir Hamilton

*NOTES: TC 2100 will be moved to Carlyle in October, 2004, the new telephone number for TC 2100 receptionist is 571-272-2100, my new telephone number is (571) 272-3852 and my supervisor's new number is (571) 272-3859.*

KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100